Banbury Cake

JUNE 23, 2016 | Reaching 18,603 readers each week in print and online | banburycake.co.uk | 01295 256111

Mia Armstrong and her mum, Bethany Hemblen

Mum's fears as address mess leaves girl with 45-minute trek

SCHOOL RUN NIGHTMARE

A MOTHER fears for her daughter's safety after being told she must walk 45 minutes to school every day.

Bethany Hemblen, from Banbury, is furious after finding out 11-year-old Mia Armstrong will have to hike two miles across main roads on her own to get to class.

It comes after a mix-up over addresses meant Mia was allocated a place at a school more than two miles from her home.

In September she will start at Banbury Academy, despite her mum's request she be given a place across town at North Oxfordshire Academy (NOA).

Ms Hemblen said: "Mia isn't the most streetwise 11-year-old, so there is a massive health and safety problem here.

"There are quite a lot of main roads across the route and there will be a lot of traffic as well.

"I start work at 8am and my partner isn't around in the mornings to take her in to school.

"There is a bus that goes into town but it is quite expensive and there would still be a 25-minute walk to school.

Kieran Davey
kdavey@nqo.com

"That's not really much better to be honest."

In November, Ms Hemblen applied for Mia to go to the NOA.

At the time of the application the family was living in Wellington Avenue near Banbury Academy, but in March they moved to Portway so Mia could go to NOA.

But despite Ms Hemblen sending the county council proof of address for their new home in February, she was told her application had not been successful because the new address had not been updated. She was then given a place at Banbury Academy.

To make matters worse, Ms Hemblen's other daughter Lexie, six, is likely to go to NOA when she starts secondary school – meaning the two girls will be at schools 45 minutes apart. Lexie currently goes to Hill View Primary School.

Ms Hemblen, who works at Smart Tots Day Nursery in Horsefair and has to arrive to work early, said: "It's going to be ludicrous when they are both at secondary school.

"What riles me as well is that the parents who apply for places later in the year have been given places, which makes me think that maybe I should have waited.

"We've already walked down the route with her but obviously you never know what might happen."

County council spokesman Owen Morton said they were only able to process applications on a family's "provable" address at the time of application.

Printed and published by Newsquest Oxfordshire, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EJ,
Tel: 01865 425362. Newspaper Sales Department 01865 425282. Direct Delivery 0800 028 4592.

Investment into grass cutting 'is vital for safety'

TAKING over some grass cutting responsibility for North Oxfordshire from the county council is necessary to preserve the appearance and safety of the area, according to the district council leader.

Cherwell District Council will invest £42,839 over the next year and work with town and parish councils in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington to cut nearly 700,000 sq m of grass.

It comes after the county council, which is responsible for maintaining grass verges, decided to reduce the service due to budget restrictions.

Cherwell leader Barry Wood said: "Oxfordshire County Council receives 75 per cent of residents' council tax bills to help fund services such as grass cutting.

"However, because it has run out of money, the funding for grass cutting was cut by half, which led to the county only cutting the grass twice a year.

"Not only does this impact on the appearance of our area here in Cherwell, but it also raises safety concerns regarding visibility so we could not stand by and let this happen."

Nick Carter, the county council's lead member for local government, business, ICT and customer services, said: "Safety is our top priority and we continue to cut grass to maintain clear sightlines at junctions.

"We would like to do more, but the county council has had to make savings on a huge scale because, unlike districts, government is reducing funding significantly and we have to manage huge increases in demand for services such as social care for adults and children."

Pipe information

RESIDENTS and business owners in Banbury are invited to a open event next week to find out about pipe laying scheduled for Warwick Road this summer.

The road will be shut to traffic between the new development and the Dukes Meadow Drive roundabout for about eight weeks from August 10.

A drop-in session will be held at the Hanwell Fields Community Centre from 4pm to 7pm on Monday, June 27.

Campaigners urge consultation input

NHS trust will seek views on removal of maternity consultants from hospital

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Keep the Horton General Chairman Keith Strangwood

CAMPAIGNERS fighting against reduced services at the Horton Hospital have urged people to speak out during the upcoming consultation or risk cuts to funding.

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUH) has said it will hold a public consultation in October on plans to move maternity consultants from the Banbury hospital, leaving the unit staffed only by midwives.

A special baby care unit would also be scrapped, all part of plans to save £2.2m.

Last Tuesday the county's Community Partnership Network met at the Cherwell District Council offices in Bodicote to discuss the plans, with midwives working at the hospital being invited to share their views.

Andrew McHugh, former practice manager of Horsefair Surgery, said he had contacted many GPs in the north of the county.

He added that their response was overwhelmingly against the proposed Maternity Led Unit (MLU) on the "grounds of safety", as there would not be adequate support left in Banbury.

Keith Strangwood, chairman of the Keep The Horton General campaign and a member of the CPN, said he felt the meeting was a good opportunity to praise the work of midwives at the hospital.

He said: "We suggested at the meeting that the midwives have at least one representative who attends all meetings that will affect their future and that of the maternity department at the Horton.

"At last, the informed voice of reason will be heard."

Labour councillors in Banbury also called on the hospital trust to ensure that as many people as possible can take part in the consultation.

County councillor Mark Cherry noted: "Let's not forget that when the maternity unit was under threat in 2006 people took to the streets of Banbury in protest.

"This is all about saving money at a time when there are 8,000 new homes being built in and around Banbury."

Fellow Labour councillor Surinder Dhesi, a member of the health and overview scrutiny committee, said: "I will be bringing up these threats to services at the next meeting.

"I recently took my husband to an appointment at the Radcliffe Hospital and it took us over an hour. Just imagine what might happen if a woman needed specialist maternity help and had to be taken the 25 miles to Oxford.

"We all know the Radcliffe is overstretched at the moment; they use the Horton as an overflow."

A spokesman for the OUH has said it is currently reviewing services to meet future needs.

Homes site manager scoops national award

A MANAGER looking after the development of new homes in Banbury has scooped a national honour aimed at finding the best-run building sites in Britain.

Ricki Hughes, from David Wilson Homes Mercia, was recognised with a Pride in the Job Quality Award for his work at the new Adderbury Fields housing development.

The awards are dedicated to championing site managers who achieve the highest standard in housebuilding.

Mr Hughes said: "Winning this award is such a great achievement for not just myself, but the company and everybody on site.

"To be recognised alongside some of the best sites and site managers around is fantastic."

Mr Hughes has been with the company for 13 years after starting out as a trainee site manager.

He has previously won the award five times, and also achieved the additional Seal of Excellence in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Site managers were judged on their technical skill, quality of workmanship, customer service and site safety.

They will now go forward to the final round of the competition, which will select the best site manager in Britain.

War and peas as 'evacuee' kids Dig for Victory

STUDENTS from a Banbury primary school were given a taste of what life was like during the Second World War as they were "evacuated" to an historic house.

Dressed in clothing from the time, pupils at William Morris Primary School visited Upton House and Gardens last week for a special history lesson.

The children were each labelled with tags and given gas masks before being shown the house's war-themed exhibition, Digging for Victory.

The group also visited the gardens and was taught how best to use the land to have enough to eat – even getting their hands dirty with some seed planting.

Inside the house there was a lesson in how people lived there during the Second World War, how M Samuel & Co Bank operated there, and about the reality of keeping safe and fed during wartime.

The National Trust-run house is currently in the final year of its Banking for Victory exhibition, which aims to give an insight into life during the Second World War.

For more details call 01295 670266 or visit nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse.

Students from William Morris School at Upton House learning about evacuees

Under-threat bus saved on use it or lose it basis

Easington route at risk since council withdrew its subsidy for service

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BANBURY residents have been given a 'use it or lose it' warning after a new operator came forward to operate an under-threat bus route on a trial basis.

The B1 service, which runs between the town centre and Easington, was set to stop after July 20 because cash from Oxfordshire County Council was withdrawn.

Stagecoach said it could no longer run the service without this subsidy, but Go Ride has now stepped forward for an initial short-term period.

Town council leader and councillor for Easington, Kieron Mallon warned people would need to start using the service more if the buses are to continue beyond the trial.

He added: "It's good news for the people of Banbury, and an example of taking the initiative to deliver a positive result despite adversity.

Kieron Mallon

"Many of my constituents in Easington do not have an alternative to access the town or its services, and I thank Go Ride for realising the potential of the B1.

"But this is a trial. It will be a case of use it, make the trial a success, and hopefully we won't lose it."

The trial service will have the same stops, but with a slightly reduced timetable from Monday to Friday until further notice.

It will operate 15 times per day on weekdays in each direction between Easington, Horton Hospital and Banbury town centre.

The first bus from Easington will leave at 8.05am and the last bus from Banbury will depart at 5.10pm.

There will be no service at weekends or on public holidays.

Go Ride Managing Director Dave Harrison said: "We are very pleased to be able to continue service B1 for a trial period to assess its commercial sustainability.

"We recognise that service B1 is very important to the local community in Easington, and therefore we hope it will be well supported during this initial trial period.

"There will be a moderate increase in cash fares, and concessionary bus passes will continue to be accepted."

Banbury MP Victoria Prentis also called on her constituents to use the bus service to make sure the trial is a success.

She added: "I am very pleased that the importance of the B1 bus service has been acknowledged.

"This trial period will monitor how much the buses are used.

"I am sure the data will confirm how well used a service this is in Banbury, and I hope it will mean the B1 can stay in the town in the longer term."

> This is a trial. It will be a case of use it, make the trial a success, and hopefully we won't lose it

CCTV images

POLICE have released a CCTV image of a woman they would like to speak to in connection with a racist attack in Banbury.

At about 12.50pm on Tuesday, May 24, a 31-year-old woman, was verbally and racially abused in Boots in Lockheed Close.

Police would like to speak to the woman pictured as she may have information which could help with the investigation.

Body discovered

THE body of a man was discovered in a Chipping Norton park on Sunday.

Thames Valley Police said officers were called at 5.19am to New Street.

Spokesman Jack Abell said: "The next of kin have not yet been informed.

"This is a very early stage of investigation, but it is not believed to be suspicious."

Museum's plea

BANBURY Museum is looking for volunteers to help introduce visitors to a new interactive exhibition next month.

"Play of Light" is a family-friendly display created by international light-artist Tine Bech, whose work has previously been shown in London's Science Museum and the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad.

As part of the exhibition, which opens on July 16, the museum needs friendly volunteer interpreters to help visitors.

Applicants would need to commit to one morning or afternoon a week and training is provided. More available at banburymuseum.org or 01295 753752.

Grants available

UP TO £10,000 of funding is available for low-carbon community projects in Oxfordshire.

The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE2) wants local groups to apply for grants from its general environmental scheme.

Funding is available for projects that promote and improve biodiversity, "support Oxfordshire's Low Carbon Agenda" or "improve access to green spaces and the countryside".

Grants are usually up to £5,000 but bids for up to £10,000 can be considered. Applications must be made by July 18. More at trustforoxfordshire.org.uk.

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Quiz night in aid of worthy cause

QUIZMASTERS in Banbury can test their knowledge for charity at a quiz night later this summer.

Town mayor Gordon Ross is organising the event on September 2 to raise money for the Banbury and District Samaritans.

The popular quiz is typically held annually on the evening before the Old Town Summer Party and Street Organ Festival, which this year are on September 3.

Quizzers have to pay £5 each to enter and can compete in teams of up to four people. People can be arranged into teams on the night.

Mr Ross said: "This year the Samaritans are the chosen charity and I hope we attract plenty of support to boost their funds.

"Announcing the event early will give contestants the chance to put the date in their diaries and form teams with family or friends. Those who can't come as part of a foursome are welcome, and we'll arrange them into teams so that everyone can take part."

The quiz will be held at the town hall. Contestants should arrive at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. For details call 01295 250340.

Learn to paddle

A DISCOUNT scheme in north Oxfordshire aims to get more young people learning to paddle.

Cherwell Canoe Club is launching a new five-week course at Woodgreen Pool from Wednesday, June 29, covering canoeing and kayaking basics.

The classes will be open to residents aged eight to 25.

Reduced prices are £10 for eight to 16-year-olds, and £15 for 17 to 25-year-olds. The course runs from June 29 to July 27 with sessions running from 7-8pm.

Places must be booked in advance by emailing courses@cherwellcc.org.uk or calling 07837 865181.

A major aim of Major Tim Peake's trip has been to inspire kids to take an interest in space exploration and sciences

Major Tim helps launch schools into Space Age

The Soyuz spacecraft carrying British astronaut Tim Peake and his two crewmates lands; below left, Major Peake after being helped from the capsule; right, Major Peake hugging his mother Angela as he arrives at Cologne airport in Germany

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TEENAGERS in Banbury were among thousands across the country tuning in last weekend as British astronaut Major Tim Peake came back to Earth.

Major Peake, a European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut, returned on Saturday after spending six months on board the International Space Station (ISS).

Students from Space Studio Banbury, in Ruskin Road, gathered around a screen to watch the historic event unfold and discuss what one question they would ask the astronaut if given the opportunity.

Dr Liam Fishwick, head of science at the school, said students had been "inspired and engaged" throughout Major Peake's journey.

He added: "This is a once-in-a-lifetime moment, and we wanted to grab it with both hands.

"Throughout Major Peake's mission we engaged with a number of activities, including his Cosmic Classroom broadcast, and our year 10s worked on projects on preparing the human body for such an extraordinary feat.

"We are preparing the next generation of scientists, astronauts and physicists – what better way to encourage them to have this amazing example which we can show them as part of our teaching?"

Dr Fishwick said if he met Major Peake the one question he would ask would be, "Where do you think this leads the future of human space flight?"

One of the major aims of Major Peake's trip to the ISS has been to inspire kids to take an interest in space exploration and sciences.

At the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus in Oxfordshire his colleagues have been closely watching his adventures.

Dr Barbara Ghinelli, director of Harwell Campus, said: "This placed the exciting world of space science right in front of thousands of children, who were able to listen to Major Peake speaking about his endeavours and ask questions.

"Literally, there could not be a higher platform from which to inspire a career in science and space.

"Major Peake's mission marks the first significant step in creating a culture shift around maths and science, and therefore addressing the UK skills shortfall."

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Community stalwarts receive awards recognition

A NUMBER of Banbury residents have been recognised on a national level for their work in the community.

Among them is a 21-year-old woman from Bodicote who has been given a royal honour for her work as a Girl Guide.

Emily Idziaczek was presented with a Queen's Girl Guide at the House of Commons on June 11 by Chief Guide Valerie Le Vaillant, Girlguiding UK's most senior volunteer.

To achieve the award Ms Idziaczek took on personal challenges including exploration trips to Canada and New Zealand, as well as other work in social action and voluntary work.

Speaking after the ceremony she said: "The confidence I developed and the love I had for the country resulted in me living in New Zealand for the past 15 months and I hope to return in September."

There is was also a reward for a "dedicated suicide prevention campaigner" who has been honoured for her work with one of the UK's biggest mental health charities.

Catherine Johnston, former chief executive of Samaritans, was awarded a CBE for services to suicide prevention in the Queen's birthday honours.

Emily Idziaczek receiving her award from Valerie Le Vaillant

She was praised by the charity's chair of trustees Jenni McCartney, who said: "Samaritans CEO Ruth Sutherland and I welcome this honour for Catherine, who is a dedicated suicide prevention campaigner and was a catalyst for positive change at Samaritans.

"Making a difference in the field of suicide prevention takes great determination given the scale of the problem, with more than 6,000 suicides recorded in the UK in 2014 alone.

"Acknowledging and recognising Catherine's contribution raises awareness not only of what she has achieved personally, but also the dedicated work of thousands of Samaritans volunteers who give up their time to help people who are struggling."

Ms Johnston was the charity's chief executive for six years, stepping down last year.

Ms McCartney added: "Catherine was an inspirational leader and a great team builder. She was able to see people's strengths and help them to make their best contribution.

"Catherine always had a very clear focus on the strategic direction of Samaritans, and her energy and commitment helped to bring about the fundamental changes which are now allowing Samaritans to deliver a new strategy and services.

"Laying those foundations has been really important, not only for Samaritans but for suicide prevention."

Finance specialist takes a 12-year lease on new offices

A FINANCE specialist will be moving to Banbury Business Park after signing a 12-year lease on new offices.

Bibby Financial Services will soon occupy the first floor of the two storey Pembroke House building, which is owned and managed jointly between XLB Property and Harbert Management Corporation.

Alexander Johns, from XLB Property, said: "We are delighted to have Bibby Financial Services as a tenant and warmly welcome them to Pembroke House.

Having them as an occupier validates the capital investment and is testament to the building."

He added that the company would now be looking to find a business to fill about 16,500 sq ft ground floor space.

Colliers International director Douglas Bonham, who worked with the company to secure the lease, said: "Our client is currently undertaking an extensive refurbishment to bring the open plan office accommodation in line with modern occupier expectations. Bibby was drawn to the strategic location of the premises."

Pupils working hard on retelling of curious tale

Students at Banbury Academy rehearsing for their summer musical Through the Looking Glass

Musical will see students from Banbury Academy go through looking glass

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ALICE's return to the fantastical world of The Mad Hatter, Tweedledee and Tweedledum will be bought to life by students at Banbury Academy next week.

Following last year's successful production of *The Lion King,* students and staff have been hard at work rehearsing for their annual summer musical *Through the Looking Glass.*

About thirty students from year 7 to year 13 make up the cast, and they have spent the last three months perfecting the story's songs and direction.

Directing this year's musical will be the academy's drama teachers Ben Coleman and Abigail Turkmore, who said the success of recent was down to the talent and hard work of students.

Mr Coleman said: "After the success of last year's production we were excited to give the students an exciting new challenge.

"The performing arts department have undertaken some ambitious and well-received musicals in the past few years such as *Billy Elliot, We Will Rock You* and *The Lion King*, and we are excited to add *Through The Looking Glass* to that list.

"The students have worked incredibly hard to create another exciting musical, and their talent is a true testament to the talent at Banbury Academy as well as the town's dedication and love of the arts."

The story follows Alice as she is pulled through a mirror into Wonderland, where she joins the White Knight in an epic battle to defeat the evil Red Queen who has seized control of the world's chess board.

Among those involved in the cast is Year 13 pupil Luke Wetherill, who will be going to do an acting course at the Oxford School of Drama when he leaves school.

> After the success of last year's production we were excited to give the students an exciting new challenge

He said: "I am so pleased to have the opportunity to play the role of the Red King in my last year at Banbury Academy.

"My love for performing and acting came from being cast as the lead in *We Will Rock You* three years ago and I cannot thank the department enough for their incomparable hard work and faith in me.

"*Through The Looking Glass* is a fantastic way for me to end my seven years at the school."

Costumes have been supplied by local costume suppliers Wacky Wardrobe while the Banbury Operatic Society – which is performing Monty Python's *Spamalot* at the school in October – is providing the set.

The production will take place at the academy's Wykham Theatre and runs from June 29 to July 2.

There is a 7.30pm performance each night and a 2.30pm matinee on the Saturday.

Tickets cost £10 for adults and £8 for concessions. They are available online at ticketsource.co.uk/banburyacademy or from the Banbury Academy website.

Cuts prompt finance chiefs' warning

COUNCIL finance chiefs have warned "life won't get easier" as they revealed an overspend of £700,000 despite a recruitment freeze.

They said the figure was less than one per cent of Oxfordshire County Council's total budget but that cuts handed down by the government remained "a perennial issue".

The overspend for 2015/16 was far less than previously forecast, with bosses predicting it would be £6m in October.

However, it was worse than the previous year, when the local authority predicted overspends of £11m but reduced this to an underspend of £196,000.

Lawrie Stratford, the council's cabinet member for finance, said: "Life won't get any easier for county councils in England who have borne the brunt of the cuts handed down from central government.

"But I have confidence in staff to continue to manage these difficulties looking forward."

Bark is cancelled

BANBURY's Bark In The Park event, due to be held in People's Park on July 3, has been cancelled.

The event, the idea of former Banbury mayor Tony Mepham, was first held last year as a celebration of pets.

But with a month to go until the second edition, organisers Banbury Town Council has said the event will not be going ahead.

On its Facebook page the council said it had been difficult to find enough demonstrations and activities to ensure the event "fulfils public expectation."

Charity bike ride

A 65-MILE charity bike ride will be held in Deddington on June 25 to raise money for Action for A-T.

About 35 riders will set off from the village at 8am to support the charity, which helps patients with ataxia telangiectasia – a rare genetic disease that can lead to severe disabilities from an early age.

The ride has been organised through the Big 60 campaign, which is also raising money for cancer care at Oxfordshire hospitals.

Rate your council

NORTH Oxfordshire residents are being asked to rate their district council as part of an annual survey.

The Annual Satisfaction Survey will be a key indicator of how happy people are with the work of Cherwell District Council and what services are in most need of protecting.

Council leader Barry Wood said: "The survey is our residents' chance to let us know how well we are performing and how they want us to spend their council tax in future."

Fill in the survey at cherwell.gov.uk.

ADVERTORIAL

Cloudy2Clear Announce Trusted Trader Partnership

Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 25 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and manager James Miller agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

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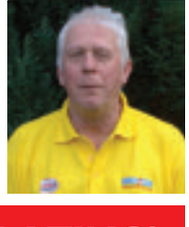

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Carers receive praise for work

CARERS in Oxfordshire have been praised for being rated the sixth-best in the country despite "adversity" because of cuts to public services.

The rating was out of 152 areas, including those covered by all of England's county councils, metropolitan councils and unitary authorities.

Given by the Department of Health, it was based on the number of times Oxfordshire was better than average in giving good services to people being cared for and informal carers in 2014/15.

Oxfordshire County Council cabinet member Judith Heathcoat added: "Our staff work tirelessly with the sole purpose of making sure vulnerable people receive the right level of support.

"It is wonderful to be able to inform the people of Oxfordshire that their adult social care services are is not only in very good hands but is also among the very best on offer in the whole of England.

"It should also be remembered that this fantastic outcome has been delivered at a time when local government is entering its seventh straight year of cuts – so it has been achieved despite a real measure of adversity."

Paul Cann, chief executive of Age UK Oxfordshire, added: "It is great that these people are supported to live independently, with dignity, in their communities.

"That Oxfordshire manages to do this against a background of the long-term, chronic underfunding of adult social care is to the county council's credit, and in particular reflects well on its committed and professional staff."

VictoriaPrentisWestminsterViews

MP FOR NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

As EU vote result sinks in take time to remember work of Service personnel

TODAY is an important day for the nation and will decide the direction the UK takes in the years to come.

Personally, I believe that we are stronger, safer and better off within the EU.

We have the best of both worlds; outside the Eurozone, but able to access the Single Market; outside Schengen, and able to maintain our borders. I know that many of you don't agree.

Whatever the outcome, we must all work together to make a success of the decision.

There has been much in the press about the way this campaign has been fought on both sides.

I hope that we can all respect the result of today's vote and heal the divides that have formed in recent weeks.

Despite its importance, the EU question should not overshadow all other issues.

This month we also mark Armed Forces Day on June 25. This is a day for us to thank all our Service personnel and their families, who sacrifice so much to keep Britain safe.

Victoria Prentis with the 142 (QOOH) Vehicle Squadron, Royal Logistics Corp

Each new posting can cause considerable upheaval for a service family. Often they face challenges making use of services we all take for granted, including registering with GPs and finding school places for their children.

We are extremely fortunate to have such professional and dedicated Armed Forces personnel; it is our responsibility to ensure that their home life is steady and stable. We are making good progress in ensuring these families receive the support they deserve through the Armed Forces Covenant.

In our area, the NHS, businesses, and our local government authorities have committed to uphold the Covenant in their work. A new Service Family Accommodation programme is currently being rolled out. We have to ensure that the principles of the Covenant are embedded in all aspects of it.

Banbury is fortunate to have an Army Reserve unit – 142 Vehicle Squadron, Royal Logistics Corps. On moving to the town, the Squadron inherited the Colour and traditions of the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, the regiment in which Sir Winston Churchill served for thirteen years.

Members of the Squadron contribute to many of our community days and ceremonial events. Armed Forces Day celebrations in the town are always a great occasion, and bring together young and old to celebrate service. I am really looking forward to it.

> Each new posting can cause considerable upheaval for a service family

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Apprentice help

BANBURY MP Victoria Prentis visited a driver training company to find out how it is helping local businesses with logistics apprentices.

Banbury-based JLD Driver Training Ltd trains about 10 LGV and HGV, car, trailer and forklift drivers each week.

During her visit Mrs Prentis met managing director Lisa Dixon to find out how young people were gaining the skills required to survive in business.

Mrs Prentis said: "We have a shortage of HGV drivers and JLD is working hard to rectify this."

Ms Dixon said: "It was really useful to talk about our interest in working more with schools and attracting more females into the role."

Cattle slaughter

THE number of cattle being slaughtered because of Bovine TB in Oxfordshire is on the rise.

New figures show in the year up to March 600 cattle have been destroyed in the county, compared with 501 the same time last year.

This shows a 20 per cent rise.

Sessions on offer

YOUNGSTERS in North Oxfordshire are being offered cut-price swimming and gym sessions.

Those aged 18 to 25 can sign up for sessions priced £1.50 to £2 at Bicester, Kidlington and Gosford, Spiceball and Woodgreen Leisure Centres.

If they visit more than six times in eight weeks they will also be eligible for free membership packages which usually cost up to £45.

The discounts are part of Cherwell District Council's Sportivate scheme, which aims to introduce more young people to new activities and local clubs.

Military tattoo will see iconic aircraft swooping in

VISITORS to this year's Armed Forces Day Tattoo in Banbury will be given a "never-forgotten experience" as a Chinook comes into land.

People will then be given an opportunity to have a closer look around the iconic craft.

There will also be a flypast of a World War Two Hurricane fighter plane at Saturday's event and a performance by the Royal Artillery Band.

The day is being organised jointly by Banbury Town Council, the Banbury-based 142 Vehicle Squadron and the town's army, navy and air force cadet corps.

Leader of the council Kieron Mallon said: "This will be a rare opportunity for people to see and hear the best Britain has in military terms. Getting close to a Chinook and going inside it will be a never-forgotten experience.

The popular event is moving to to Spiceball Park to accommodate extra exhibitions and attractions.

The arena will have a full programme of entertainment including the Trooping of the Colour, a flight simulator and a mini assault course.

Flight Lieutenant Karl Kisley, Officer Commanding 1460 (Banbury) ATC Squadron, said: "The Chinook and the Hurricane fly-past will be very special highlights."

The event opens at 10.30am.

Tributes are paid to popular player

Cricketer Marc Rorich, who died aged 36, is remembered by friends

Megan Archer
marcher@nqo.com

FELLOW sportsmen have paid tribute to cricketer Marc Rorich, who they called one of the most talented and exciting players in Banbury Cricket Club's history.

Mr Rorich, the former Banbury Cricket Club all-rounder, was described as an entertaining sportsman who had the ability to trouble the best players on the circuit.

The father-of-one died earlier this month aged 36.

Marc Andrew Rorich was born in Cape Town on June 19, 1979, to parents Jennifer and Keith.

After growing up in South Africa, he moved to Banbury during the summer of 1996, at the age of 17, to join his uncle Craig Haupt at Banbury Cricket Club.

The pair had grown up together like brothers under the same roof in South Africa, and their reunion in Oxfordshire led to many more happy years both on and off the cricket field.

Described as an exciting and entertaining cricketer by fellow player Jimmy Phillips, Mr Rorich was said to be capable of swinging the ball both ways at pace, was athletic in the field and a capable batsman who scored quickly once he was established at the crease.

Marc Rorich

He was seen as an invaluable part of the Banbury team that won the inaugural Home Counties Premier League.

He also regularly took the new ball ahead of former England fast bowler Neal Radford.

Mr Rorich made several appearances on the honours boards at Banbury Cricket Club.

He was one of only five players who featured on both the batting and bowling honours boards, and also held the second, third and fifth-best bowling performances.

Friend and cricketer Mr Phillips said: "When Marc came to Banbury in 1996, I was 13 and he was 17. He was everything I wanted to be. Effortlessly talented, with the cricket world at his feet."

Outside of his cricketing life, he worked at Norbar Torque Tools in Banbury. He also had a son, William, aged seven. When he was not playing cricket, he enjoyed a round of golf.

His uncle, Mr Haupt, said Mr Rorich was "one of the kindest people you could ever meet" and had the biggest smile.

He said: "He was so jovial and magic. He was just a magical man."

He added Mr Rorich had been married but divorced a year before his death.

Mr Rorich died on Wednesday, June 8, at the age of 36 after a long battle with liver problems.

He is survived by his parents, uncle and son, William, as well as other family members in the UK and South Africa.

His funeral details have yet to be announced.

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Feel benefits of singing during free workshops

ASPIRING singers in north Oxfordshire can hit the high notes thanks to free summer workshops.

Singing for Wellbeing sessions are led by experienced vocal leader Peter Hunt and aim to promote the benefits of singing, boost lung capacity and develop self-confidence.

During the weekly sessions people will join in with breathing exercises, gentle physical warm-ups, vocal exercises and simple songs.

The workshops are part of the pilot Social Prescribing Scheme, which alerts residents to local activities which benefit their wellbeing.

It is supported by Cherwell District Council, which is working in co-operation with doctors' surgeries and other local partners.

The council's deputy leader George Reynolds said: "Singers often report benefits such as stress relief, an increased sense of calm and improved lung capacity.

"These workshops are open to everyone, but we hope they will be of particular benefit to anyone living with a lung condition, dementia, social, emotional or communication difficulties.

"Singing is a wonderful way to make new friends and bring the community together, and I hope as many people as possible will attend."

Starting from June 28, the sessions will run for five weeks from 11am to 12pm every Tuesday at Banbury Health and Wellbeing Centre in Ruskin Road, Banbury.

To book your free place call the centre on 01295 263366.

Allergy 'cure' takes sting out of hubby's bee habit

Lucy Zaichenko with her husband's bees

Potentially fatal allergy of beekeeper's wife has been reduced by immunotherapy

Keiran Davey
kdavey@nqo.com

THE wife of a bee keeper has been "cured" of a life-threatening allergy– to bee stings.

Lucy Zaichenko, whose husband Viktor keeps around 150 million bees on their commercial bee farm in Hook Norton, only discovered the potentially deadly allergy when she was stung five years ago.

The 47-year-old, who does sales and administration work for the business, went into severe anaphylactic shock.

Her body swelled up and she could not breathe, and she was rushed to hospital when she collapsed unconscious.

Mrs Zaichenko was saved and later referred to a specialist allergy clinic at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, part of Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust.

Experts at the hospital offered her immunotherapy to bee venom; the treatment involves gradual exposure to the venom to build up immunity.

Initially she was injected with 1/10,000th of a bee sting, and the dose was gradually increased.

Now she receives the equivalent of two bee stings every six weeks.

Mrs Zaichenko said: "When I discovered I was allergic to bee stings I was devastated.

"My husband is from a long line of bee farmers and bee keeping is his passion as well as our livelihood.

"Every day I was risking my life by being at home, because the bees often come into the house as well as the garden. It was difficult to know what to do.

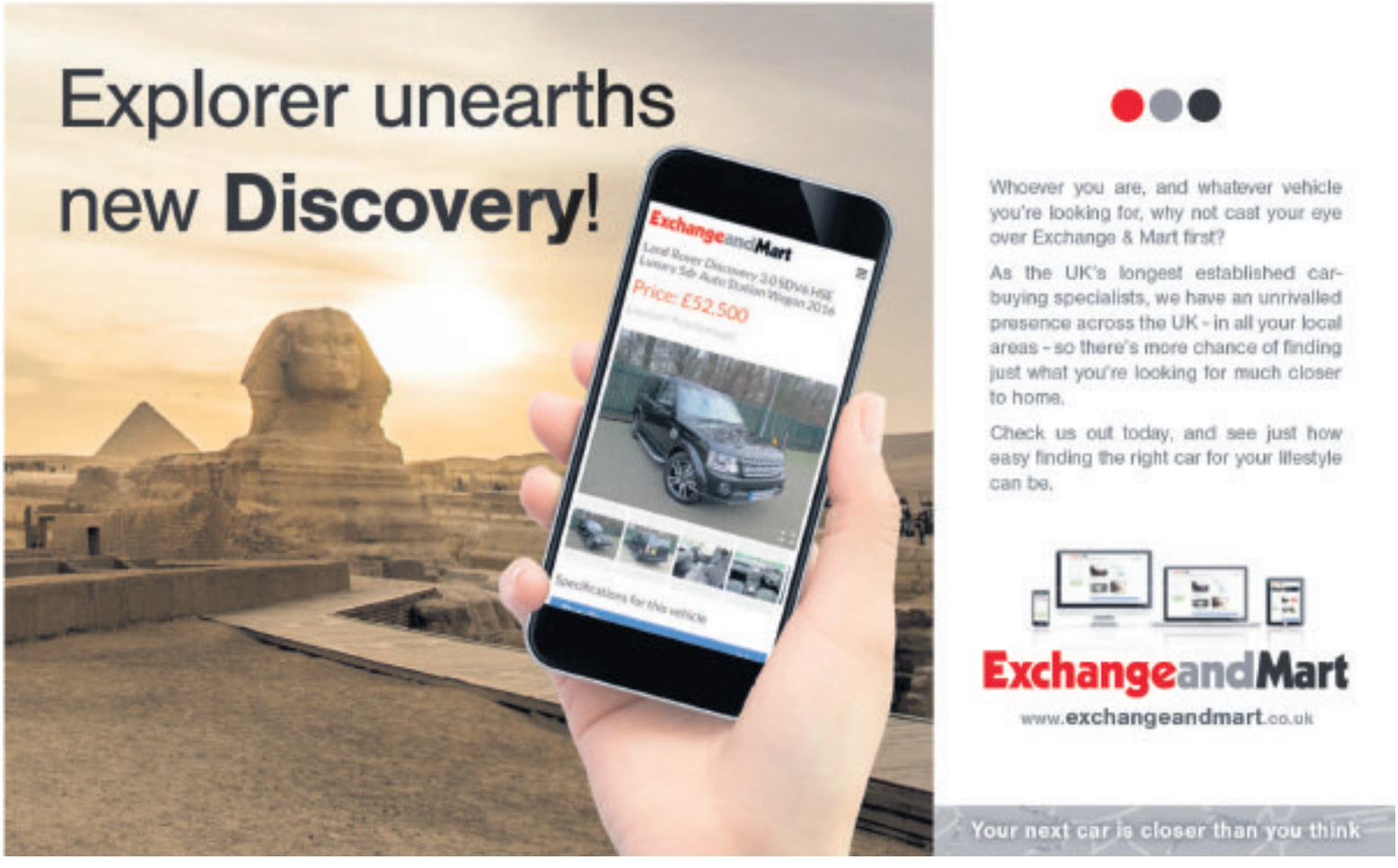
"The immunotherapy has been life-saving in more ways than one.

"It has meant that I can still live on the farm and run our business without having to worry about getting stung, as I know my body can deal with it."

Dr Sophie Farooque, an allergy consultant at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, said: "We are referred many patients with a suspected allergy to bee and wasp stings and a considerable number are enrolled on our immunotherapy programme.

"But it is unusual to meet someone who is in quite so much present danger as Lucy.

"Lucy's allergy was so severe that just one bee sting could have killed her and every day she was at risk, even in her own home."



Bigger but not really better

INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE **(12A, 120 mins) Action/Sci-Fi/Romance. Jeff Goldblum, Bill Pullman, Liam Hemsworth, Jessie Usher, Maika Monroe, Travis Tope, Angelababy, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Deobia Oparei, Brent Spiner, Judd Hirsch, Sela Ward. Director: Roland Emmerich**

DURING the calm before the digital effects storm in *Independence Day: Resurgence,* Jeff Goldblum's quixotic scientist stares slack-jawed at an approaching alien mothership and gasps: "That's definitely bigger than the last one."

Those words encapsulate the bombastic sequel to Roland Emmerich's 1996 sci-fi blockbuster, which famously blew up The White House as a symbol of extra-terrestrial hostility.

Second time around, the German director isn't content with razing iconic buildings in Washington D.C.

He deposits the whole of Dubai including the spearlike Burj Khalifa skyscraper on top of London, flattening landmarks with whooping abandon, then proceeds to pulverise America's eastern coast.

With the benefit of this state-of-the-art trickery, eye-popping 3D and immersive sound, *Independence Day: Resurgence* should be a pulse-quickening thrill ride. So it comes as a crushing disappointment that the second film lacks the roughly hewn excitement and charm of its predecessor.

It has been 20 years since US President Thomas J Whitmore (Bill Pullman) issued his rallying cry to the entrenched human race.

In the aftermath, survivors salvaged the remains of fallen alien technology to create hybrid weapons systems.

We also initiated the Earth Space Defense (ESD) under the direction of David Levinson (Goldblum) as an early warning system against future incursions by hostile extra-terrestrials.

On the eve of the July 4 celebrations, a hulking otherworldly destroyer enters our atmosphere in response to a distress call from the fallen fleet.

Current US President Elizabeth Lanford (Sela Ward) commands elite pilots to take to the skies, including Dylan Hiller (Jessie Usher), orphaned pals Jake Morrison (Liam Hemsworth) and Charlie Miller (Travis Tope), whose parents perished during the failed first invasion and Chinese golden girl Rain (Angelababy).

"It's the fourth of July," bellows Dylan as he spearheads the rebellion, "so show 'em some fireworks!"

Independence Day: Resurgence lazily embraces disaster movie cliches including one mawkish subplot involving Levinson's father (Judd Hirsch), a school bus of stricken children and a dog.

Pivotal characters, who are clearly marked for death, serve their perfunctory purpose, blatantly teeing up a third instalment that will hopefully take another 20 years before it sees the flickering light of a cinema screen.

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS **(U, 91 mins) Animation/Comedy/Drama/Action/Romance. Featuring the voices of Louis CK, Eric Stonestreet, Kevin Hart, Jenny Slate, Ellie Kemper, Lake Bell, Albert Brooks, Steve Coogan. Directors: Chris Renaud, Yarrow Cheney**

CREATURES great and small wreak havoc on the streets of New York City in Chris Renaud and Yarrow Cheney's colourful computer-animated romp.

Employing a similar framework to Toy Story, The Secret Life Of Pets imagines what our four-legged, feathered and finned friends get up to when our backs are turned, suggesting that the fun begins when we go to work or school.

A Jack Russell terrier and an affection starved mongrel replace Woody and Buzz Lightyear as the feuding central characters, whose rivalry mellows into mutual affection when they are separated from their owner.

Screenwriters Ken Daurio, Brian Lynch and Cinco Paul have great fun in early scenes, revealing how a dachshund uses his owner's food mixer as a back massager or one tiny dog performs acrobatic leaps to water a hanging basket with a cock of its leg.

The central concept isn't original but there's an infectious charm to every shiny frame of Renaud and Cheney's well-groomed picture.

Liam Hemsworth as Jake Morrison in Independence Day: Resurgence; inset, The Secret Life of Pets

Cake Bookworm

The Girls **by Emma Cline is published in hardback by Chatto & Windus, priced £12.99 (ebook £7.99)**

THIS much-anticipated debut novel of Emma Cline, already a well-regarded short story writer and fiction reader for the New Yorker, will probably get summarised a lot as 'that Charles Manson novel'. But while it does indeed fictionalise the Manson murders, it's really more about the agonies of adolescence. Plot and structure are superficially simple. Evie Boyd, 14, is the drifting daughter of a failed marriage, languishing in the absent care of a mother preoccupied by her own insecurities. As mum brings home a series of inappropriate men friends, Evie – desperate for attention, for adulthood, for something to happen – is easily drawn into the outlaw community of teenage girls and hangers-on centred on the darkly charismatic Russell, a self-styled prophet with a desperate hankering for a recording deal. And we all know how that will go... Evie's account of this dark Californian summer is framed as the recollection of her older present self, who's house-sitting for a friend and now observes the troubled dynamics of an adolescent girl who comes to stay, and the two dubious young men who accompany her. In this way, we see that Evie's own teenage struggle was not just a freak cult occurrence (though the Manson/Russell story massively accentuates the tale), but is more about the nuances of power and performance that play out between partially-formed people, who are desperate to know who they are. A beach novel of real substance.

End Of Watch **by Stephen King is published in hardback by Hodder & Stoughton, priced £20 (ebook £13.99)**

Former police detective Bill Hodges, now a private investigator, knows time is running out. That leaves him with little time to catch a killer. And what makes it worse for Hodges is it's a killer he already knows. But nobody will believe Hodges when he tries to tell them it's Brady Hartsfield, the man hell-bent on mass murder from Mr Mercedes, the opening part of Stephen King's suspense-packed thriller trilogy. Hodges and unorthodox sidekick Holly Gibney need to unravel the latest mystery surrounding the suicide-obsessed Hartsfield. Strangest of all is that he has been stuck in a mental hospital since the end of the first book, unable to stand trial after Gibney scrambled his brains with a blow to the head to stop him blowing up a concert hall full of teenagers. As everyone around them follows the false trails laid by Hartsfield, Hodges and Gibney must put their disbelief aside if they are to stop him delivering death via a children's computer game. The final story in this trilogy is sure to put him right back at the top.

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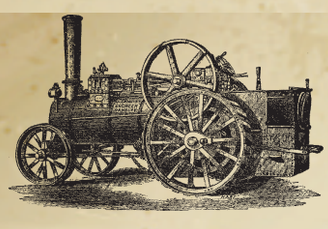

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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

THURSDAY

Gaming – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Magdalen College School, Cowley Place, Oxford. Research psychologist Peter Etchells and author of *Death by Video Game*, Simon Parker, discuss the positive and negative effects of gaming. 7pm. £10/8/2. 01865 253505.

In Conversation with Leopold Eyharts, ESA astronaut: Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford. Book at http://www.oxfordshiresciencefestival.com/festival-launch.html 7.30pm. £7/£5(concs)/£22 (family).

Japanese Tea Ceremony: Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford. 1pm. £10. 01865 253505.

Muscular Dystrophy in the New Genomics Era: Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford. Talk by Kay Davies. 5pm. £7/£5(concs), £22 (family).

National Gardens Scheme: Upper Chalford Farm, Between Sydenham and Postcombe, Chinnor. Evening opening with wine or Pimm's. 4pm. Adult £4, children free. 01844 351320.

FRIDAY

I Want To Believe – An Astronomer's Search For Aliens: Martin Wood Lecture Theatre, 20 Parks Road, Oxford. Chris Lintott looks at the evidence for life in the Universe. Book at http://www.oxfordshiresciencefestival.com/space-day.html. 7.30pm. £5/£4(concs), £16(family).

National Gardens Scheme: Old Swan and Minster Mill, Minster Lovell, Witney. Wheelchair access. Dogs on leads. Plant sale. Accommodation. Teas. 2pm. Adult £5, children free. 01993 774441.

Satellites 4 Everyone: Martin Wood Lecture Theatre, 20 Parks Road, Oxford. Learn about the latest satellite technology, and how space is part of our everyday life. Book at http://www.oxfordshiresciencefestival.com/space-day.html. 6pm. £5/£4(concs), £16(family).

Space on the Streets: Broad Street, Oxford. The University of Oxford's Department of Physics takes you on a journey through the cosmos. Find out more at http://www.oxfordshiresciencefestival.com/space-day.html. 1pm. Free, drop in.

SATURDAY

Our Local Flora & Fauna: St Kenelm's Church, Minster Lovell. A talk by Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre, Eynsham. Bring items for discussion/identification. Visit www.stkenelmschurch.co.uk for details. 7pm.

Aldo Zilli – Italian Cooking: Magdalen College School, Cowley Place, Oxford. Award-winning chef and restaurateur specialising in Italian, vegetarian and seafood cuisine shares some of his favourite Italian dishes. 2pm. £6/4/2. 01865 253505.

Antique & Collectors Market: Methodist Church, Oxford Road, Kidlington. Parking. Free. 10am. 01865 371494.

Aston and Cote Fete: Playing Fields, Cote Road, Aston. 1.30pm. Free. 01993 850271.

Carterton Lions Charity Car Boot Sale: Carterton Recreation Ground, Alvescot Road, Carterton. 8am. Shoppers free, pitches £6 and £12. 01993 772241.

Carterton Open Gardens 2016: Bogend, Milestone Road, Carterton. In aid of Save The Children Fund. 1pm. Entry by donation. 01993 212911.

Charlbury Beer Festival: Charlbury Cricket Club, Forest Road, Charlbury. 12pm. £10 beer drinkers; £5 non-beer drinkers; u18s free. 07772 164803.

Culinary Arts: Magdalen College School, Cowley Place, Oxford. A family-friendly day of demonstrations, talks, workshops and stalls. 11am. Free. 01865 253505.

Flower Festival: St Leonard's Church, Middleton Road, Banbury. 10.30am. donations. 01295 262 077.

Gin Tasting: University of Oxford Botanic Garden, Rose Lane, Oxford. A guided gin tasting by a master distiller from The Oxford Artisan Distillery. 5pm. £20. 01865 253505.

Girlguiding Kidlington Summer Family Fete: St Mary's Lodge, 49 Church Street, Kidlington. Summer family fete to help raise funds to rebuild Guide Centre. 2pm. Free entry. 01993 357047.

Hailey Festival Scarecrow Trail: Middletown, Hailey. Characters from Cartoon Films. Free maps from Lamb & Flag. Competition to identify all of the characters. 9am. Free. 01993 899125.

Kirtlington Village Fete, Dog Show & Children's Fun Run: Village Hall & Sports Field, South Green, Kirtlington, Kirtlington. 1pm. Adults £1 with programme, children Free. 01869 351537.

Mum2mum Market Nearly New Sale: Fitzharrys School, Northcourt Road, Abingdon. 2pm. £2 (adults), children free.

National Gardens Scheme: Field Cottage, Fritwell Road, Fewcott. Wheelchair access. Plant sale. Teas. 10.30am. Adult £3.50, chd free.

National Gardens Scheme: Cote Manor, Bampton. Partial wheelchair access. Home-made teas. 11am. Adult £5, chd free.

Silver Star Society Summer Party: John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way, Headington. 12pm. Free. 01865 221718.

Steeple Aston Church Fete: Village Hall and Sports Field, Robinson's Close, Steeple Aston. 2pm. £1. 01869347757.

Table Top and Jumble Sale: Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary, Old Didcot Road Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. 11am. Buyers entry 50p. 01491 833938.

Vintage Dance Evening: Festival Marquee, Magdalen College School, Cowley Place, Oxford. Performances, demonstrations and the chance to learn new steps. 7pm. £10/8/2. 01865 253505.

Witney Buttercross Sugarcraft Club: Ducklington Village Hall, Standlake Road, Ducklington. Pat Williams will show how to use patchwork cutters to create stunning effects on cakes. 2pm. Members £3, visitors £5. 01993 705508.

Xanthe Clay – The Contented Cook: Magdalen College School, Cowley Place, Oxford. Chef and writer for *The Telegraph* Xanthe Clay shares her tips for successful food writing whilst demonstrating a recipe from her book. 11.30am. £6/4/2. 01865 253505.

SUNDAY

Combe Primary School Summer Fete: Combe Playing Field, Park Road, Combe. 12pm. Free.

Crossing Cultures, Crossing Time: Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford. Travel through time, experience different cultures and create a record of your journey through sketching among the collections, under the tutoring of artist Amanda Beck. 10.30am-12.30pm; 1.30-3.30pm. £25. 01865 253505.

East Challow Open Gardens: East Challow Village Hall, Canal Way, East Challow. 2pm. Adults £5, children under 16 free. 01235 552660.

Glass Engraving: Magdalen College School, Cowley Place, Oxford. Engrave your own glass tumbler with tuition from engraving master Freddie Quartley. 11.30am. £20. 01865 253505.

Hailey Open Gardens: Middletown, Hailey. Free maps from Lamb & Flag. Garden admission £3 pp. Children free. 1.30pm. Adults £3, children Free. 01993 899125.

Harwell Open Gardens: High Street, Harwell. 2pm. £5 for adults, children under 16 free. 01235 821615.

Launton Open Gardens: Launton. Twelve gardens open. 11am. £5 per adult. 07902 053078.

Leather Bookbinding: Magdalen College School, Cowley Place, Oxford. Make your own leather-bound journal. 11am-1.30pm; 2.30-5pm. £20. 01865 253505.

London to Oxford bike ride: Oxpens Meadow, Oxpens Road, Oxford. Cycle from London through the Chilterns to Oxford in aid of Prostate Cancer Research Centre. Starting from Syon Park in Brentford, visit Fulmer and Burnham Beeches before stopping for lunch by the river at Marlow. The route then heads into the Chiltern Hills and across Christmas Common to Chalgrove to the finish at Oxpens Meadows for live music and refreshments. Online booking: http://www.bike-events.co.uk/londonoxford. 7am.

National Gardens Scheme: Bolters Farm, Chilson. Partial wheelchair access. Teas. 10.30am. Adult £4, chd free.

National Gardens Scheme: Sibford Gower. Two cottage gardens. Plant sale. 2pm. Combined Adult £5, chd free. 01295 780365.

Northmoor Village Fete: Northmoor Red Lion Gardens, Church Road, Northmoor. 12pm. Free. 01865 300534.

Open Gardens: East Hendred Village. Entry by Hendred House Twenty private gardens. The Mulberry band will be playing from 12-3pm in the garden at Hendred House. 11am. Free admission. 01235 821796.

Open Gardens & Flower Festival: St Mary's the Virgin Church, Church Street, Hampton Poyle. Plant sales, homemade teas. 2pm. Free.

MONDAY

Iain Pears – Computers, Spies & the Elizabethan Pastoral: Festival Marquee, Magdalen College School, Cowley Place, Oxford. Art historian, novelist and journalist Iain Pears discusses his latest book *Arcadia*. 6pm. £10/8/2. 01865 253505.

Will Gompertz: Festival Marquee, Magdalen College School, Cowley Place, Oxford. BBC Arts Editor Will Gompertz talks about his latest book *Think Like An Artist*. 8pm. £10/8/2. 01865 253505.

TUESDAY

'What We Cannot Know', by Marcus Du Sautoy: Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford Andrew Wiles Building, Woodstock Road, Oxford. Britain's most famous mathematician explores the limits of human knowledge, to probe whether there is anything we truly cannot know. Book at http://www.oxfordshiresciencefestival.com/tuesday.html 6pm. £7/£5(concs), £22 (family).

Army Reserve Open Evening: Edward Brooks Barracks, Cholswell Road, Shippon, Abingdon. 7.30pm. Free. 01235 548000.

Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers: Car Park, Lower Street (opposite Swan pub), Islip. Leisurely 4.5-mile walk to Woodeaton. Leader Mary Gough. 10am. 07939 826412.

WEDNESDAY

Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers: Layby, East End, North Leigh. Leisurely 6.5-mile circular walk via Wilcote. Leader Mary Whitehead. Layby at entrance to lane leading to Roman Villa. 10am.

Oxfordshire Family Support Network AGM: 32 Crecy Walk, Woodstock. Supporting families of people with learning disabilities. www.oxfsn.org.uk 10am. 07596 784947.

Public Debate – Is Genetic Engineering Of Humans Ethically Justified?: Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford. 5pm. £7/£5(concs), £22 (family).

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

Music

THURSDAY

Methodist Church, High Street, Witney: Lunchtime recital – Voyage beyond the Pillars of Hercules. Imogen Ridge, harp, Jennifer Raven, flute, Annabel Molyneaux, mezzo-soprano, Peter Cowdrey, piano, Paul Molyneaux, poetry. Free. 12.30pm. 01993 702296.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Maciek Pysz. Jazz guitarist accompanied by The Spin Trio. 8.30pm. £10, £8 (conc), £6 (student).

The Cock Inn, Combe: Nick Gill. Classic jazz and ragtime piano/vocals. 8pm. Free.

New Theatre, 2 George Street, Oxford: Let It Be. Beatles tribute show. 7.30pm. £22.90-£33.40.

FRIDAY

Brewery Lane, Hook Norton: Music at the Crossroads. Featuring 14 live music acts, from rock to folk and acoustic blues. Adult £10, 11-17 yrs £5. 7pm. 01608 737143.

The Northcourt (Abingdon Utd FC), 3 Northcourt Road, Abingdon: Egypt. £10 advance £12 door. 7.30pm. 01235 856076.

Witney Congregation Church, Welch Way, Witney: Gilbert and Sullivan's *Ruddigore*. Kennington and District United Church Choirs perform a concert version. Free with collection for Christian Aid. 7.30pm. 01865 361431.

The White House, Abingdon Road, Oxford: Peggy Seeger. Oxford Folk Club. £6. 8.30pm. 01865 768128.

Carterton Social Centre, Brownes Lane, Carterton: Country & Western Dance with Redwing. £6. 8.30pm. 01993 850682.

Angel, Market Square, Witney: The Summits. Free. 9pm. 01993 703238.

Blenheim Palace, Woodstock: The Corrs, Jack Savoretti. Outdoor concert. 4pm. £45-£100.

SATURDAY

Brewery Lane, Hook Norton, Hook Norton: Music at the Crossroads. Adult £10, 11-17 yrs £5. 7pm. 01608 737143.

Dorchester Abbey, High Street, Dorchester on Thames: Mike Heron and Trembling Bells Concert. 7.30pm.

Christ Church, Northcourt Road, Abingdon: Gilbert and Sullivan's *Ruddigore*. Kennington and District United Church Choirs. Free with collection for The Bridge. 7.30pm. 01865 361431.

St Mary's Church, Horse Fair, Banbury: Banbury Symphony Orchestra. Adults £10, free for 18s and under. 7.30pm. 07912 888263.

Royal British Legion Club, Spring Road, Abingdon: SwingTime Big Band. Free. 8.30pm. 01235 529012.

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Chasing Daylight, Echopraxis, Kanadia, Kuiper, Neon Teepee, Grub. Classic guitar-pop & rock. 6pm. £8.

Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street, Woodstock: The Messy Fridays. 8.45pm. £1.

New Theatre, 2 George Street, Oxford: Let It Be. Beatles tribute show. 2.30pm and 7.30pm. £22.90-£36.90.

SUNDAY

St Mary's Church, Church Road, Thame: La Serenissima – The Vivaldi Legacy. £5 - £20. 3.45pm. 07799 556929.

All Saints Church, Church Street, Churchill: Chipping Norton Choral Society. £8. 7.30pm.

Oxford Wine Café, 38 South Parade, Summertown: Joanna Eden Trio. Vocals/piano, bass & drums. 6.30-9pm. Free.

MONDAY

Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury: Fotheringay. Folk. £20. 8pm. 01295 279002.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Moreland & Arbuckle. Blues. The Haven Club. 8pm. £10 (adv), £12 (otd), £5 (NUS).

O2 Academy, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Saul Williams, Oddisee, Good Compny. Hip-hop. 7pm. £16.50.

TUESDAY

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: The Bullingdon Hot Club. Guitars and clarinet swinging jazz. Doors open 8.30pm.

WEDNESDAY

O2 Academy, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Will & The People, Bootleg Rascal. Indie pop foursome. 7pm. £10.

Theatre

Burton Taylor Studio, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Jun 25, *Little Artist, Big Painting.* Commotion Dance. 11am & 12.30pm. For under 5s and their families. £5. Jun 25, *Ira Brand: Break Yourself.* 5pm. £10, £8. Jun 25, *Gutted.* 7pm. £10, £8. Jun 25, *Stories to Tell in the Middle of the Night.* 9pm. £10, £8. Jun 25, *Melancholy.* 2.30pm £10, £8. Jun 26, *Glisten.* An interactive performance for babies aged 0-18 months and their carers. 11am & 11.45am. £5. Jun 26, *On The Edge Of Me.* 5pm. £10, £8. Jun 26, *The Gin Chronicles.* 7pm. £10, £8. Jun 28-30, *Shakespeare's King John.* 9pm. £6/4/2. 01865 305305.

Glee Club, Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford: Jun 25, Phil Jerrod, Carl Donnelly, Jojo Smith and Tom Wriiglesworth. 7.15pm. £14.50. 0871 472 04007.

Oxford Castle, New Road, Oxford: Jun 20-Jul 2, *Taming of the Shrew.* 7.30pm. £15, £13 concessions. 01865 260666.

University Parks, Oxford: Jun 23, Giffords Circus Open Rehearsal. 10am. £10/8/2. 01865 253505.

The Gardens of Wadham College, Parks Road, Oxford: Jun 28-Aug 18, *Love's Labour's Lost.* 7.30pm. £18-£23 (Previews June 28-30 £13). 0844 879 4418.

Corn Exchange, Market Place, Wallingford: Jun 29, *Encore summer showcase.* Sinodun Players' youth group. 6.30pm. £5. 01491 825000.

Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot: Jun 24, *A Midsummer Night's Dream.* 7.30pm. £15, £13.50 (concs). Jun 26, *Old Mother Hubbard* (family and children's theatre for ages 3-7). 2pm. £8.50, £6.50 (concs), £28 family ticket. 01235 515144.

Chipping Norton Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Jun 28, *Romeo & Juliet.* 4pm and 7pm. £7.50 (£5.50). 01608 642350.

CakeSport

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Stanbridge leaves Puritans

Ollie Stanbridge celebrates with the fans after winning promotion to the Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division with Banbury last season

Stalwart exits Banbury after 500 games but Benjamin and Self join Premier bid

FOOTBALL

BANBURY United's longest-serving player Ollie Stanbridge is leaving the club, writes MATTHEW BRUCE.

Since joining the Evo-Stik Southern League club in 2002, the midfielder has clocked up more than 500 appearances during two spells.

The feat was recognised with an honour at the end-of-season awards, but it has been confirmed the Puritans' Division 1 South & West play-off victory over Taunton Town in May was his last game for the side.

Two players are joining Banbury for their Premier Division campaign.

Midfielder Declan Benjamin (pictured) is back for a second spell after five seasons with Oxford City.

The other is midfielder Jack Self, who has moved from fellow Southern League outfit Didcot Town, having previously been with City.

Manager Mike Ford said: "I needed quality players who would be able to fit in with the way we like to play, but I also need players who are committed and enthusiastic.

"Last season I was lucky enough to have almost a full squad at every training session and that's the sort of commitment I expect."

It was thought former Oxford United player Aaron Woodley would also be signing for Banbury, but the striker has decided to stay with North Leigh.

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ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19

Don't be put off your dreams by what others say. Follow your own feet and trust that you are moving in the right direction. A new area of your work opens up which makes your professional world a more flexible place to be. First dates and new introductions spark the beginning of something really special. Ring now so we can talk about your recent mixed emotions.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

I know you are not happy with the way that a close one has been leading such an independent life, but you are the one who gave the signal that this was not a problem. Talking to them on Tuesday or Thursday helps you find some common ground to build on. Talk is cheap on Friday though. Show your intentions by acting. Ring now to hear why you're feeling so nostalgic at the moment.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Your confidence is growing by the day, which is going to be great for your social life. Just make sure that you do not allow confidence to turn into arrogance or you will frighten away the very faces you are trying to impress. A new face in your career is not a threat, but holds the key to the career you long for. Ring now to hear why it's worth asking questions about current work changes.

0906 585 4362

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Try not to act on rumours you hear this week, but allow the dramatic nature of those involved to settle first. There is a need for you to look after someone who is not feeling as strong as they should emotionally or physically. This helps you to get your own life into perspective. An obstacle you encountered financially is given a boost from news you hear midweek. Ring now for more predictions.

0906 585 4363

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Try not to leave things half done to go on to the next project or you are going to cast yourself as unprofessional. You know that pride is important to a sign such as you, so finish what you start. A tired mood this week could see you cancelling the very plans you should be throwing yourself into. Ring now to hear why love and romance have a cloak and dagger feel as you enter July.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Bravery is daring to try where others would not. I know you have what it takes to turn your wildest dreams into a reality, but first you have to convince yourself. Come on Virgo, take the first step and the next will come naturally. Take a moment to call up the person you've been neglecting. They have news which will prove they're stronger now. Ring now to hear about your incredible 2016.

0906 585 4365

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

A problem in the workplace makes it difficult for you to feel professional, but this is in fact your chance to shine Libra. Take the initiative and show you have what it takes to control what others can't. This is where last year's dramas pay off, as I know they taught you some really valuable lessons. Jealousy in love is your enemy. Ring now so I can help you gain perspective.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You will have realised by now that everything in life happens for a reason, but we don't always need to know what that reason is. Enjoy the surprises which fate will reveal and try not to tell new faces too much about yourself too soon or you will take the pleasure out of what should be a productive process. Ring me right now to hear who thinks they control you.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

There are several work avenues which need your time and attention, but you seem to be more intent on starting fresh than you do tying up loose ends. Enjoy showing how good you are at finishing as well as starting things Sagittarius. Luck is on your side in love. You can afford to take chances and to say how you feel with confidence. Ring now and I'll tell you a secret.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

There is a far more settled feel to your chart than we have seen in weeks and this has as much to do with your state of mind as it does what others have said or done to you. Truth be told, you still need to raise those standards Capricorn, as many of you have been aiming too low in the last year. Know you are worth supporting and loving and others will too. Ring now to talk life through with me.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

I can see that you want to make changes, but you are not sure where to start. This week gives you the chance to choose and to have an opinion, so avoid sticking your head in the sand. Family think they know more than they do about your personal life and may be casting opinions with no real base. Ring now to hear why I embrace you taking tests or doing exams at this time.

0906 585 4370

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20

I know you feel you are missing someone Pisces, but is them you are missing or what they represented, which is having someone to worry about and to worry about you. By Friday you get your answer and you take steps to make your life a more secure place to be. Give me a ring to hear how travel and career perks make this such an interesting year for you.

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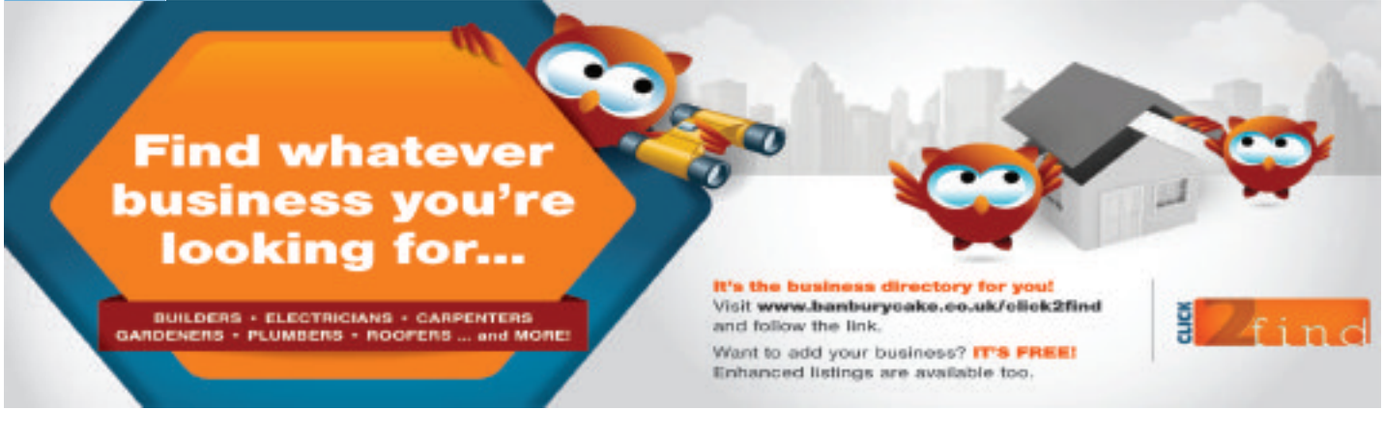

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Harbages Farmhouse in Warmington, where Richard Harris lived

A knock on Dumble-door to Potter star's old home

Gill Oliver
gill.oliver@nqo.com

IT COULD be a magical moment for whoever buys Harry Potter star Richard Harris' former home near in Warmington.

The late actor, who played Professor Albus Dumbledore in the first two films, lived at Harbages Farmhouse for four years.

Owner Miles Stevens-Hoare says the house is known in the village as "the Harry Potter house".

He remembers being shown around before he bought it 13 years ago and spotting a wizard-style black cloak and hat. He said: "At that point my kids were quite young and were extremely taken with the Harry Potter-style black robe and hat that were just draped over a trunk.

"Whether it was something from the Harry Potter films or not, I don't know but it became family folklore that it was."

The 17th-century Grade-II listed house looks out over the village green and duck pond.

Mr Stevens-Hoare, who works for a children's book publisher in Oxford, added: "Richard Harris was a regular in the village pub, The Plough.

"He must have had to navigate the duck pond to reach there but I don't think he ever fell in.

"He was tremendously well-known and liked in the village.

"There are lots of stories about him but all are positive ones about what a character he was."

Mr Harris, who had many leading roles on stage and in film, including *Gladiator* and *Camelot*, died in 2002.

The Grade-II listed house is set in half-an-acre of walled gardens with a courtyard, vegetable plot, fruit trees and double garage.

The drawing room and dining room both have inglenook fireplaces and an original stone spiral staircase leads to a cellar.

There is also a study, sitting room and kitchen/breakfast room.

Upstairs are five bedrooms and three bathrooms.

Warmington was also home to former *The Archers* actor and scriptwriter Norman Painting, who played Phil Archer in the radio drama.

James Way, of agents Knight Frank, said: "Warmington is quite special, with its village green and duck pond."

Harbages Farm is on the market for £1.095m through Knight Frank. For more information, call 01789 297735 or visit knightfrank.com.

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£600

18 Barcombe Close

Martin and Co Banbury are pleased to offer to the market, this one bedroom semi-detached house in the Hardwick area of Banbury. The property comprises; spacious lounge, kitchen, double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, and bathroom. EPC Rating D

£625

67 Waltham Gardens

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market two bedroom house conveniently situated in Grimsbury within walking distance to the train station and the town centre. The property comprises; kitchen; living room; two bedrooms and a bathroom with bath and shower. the property also benefits from a rear enclosed garden. Available unfurnished. EPC Rating: D

£795

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Room 5, 66 Broughton Road

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5E George Street

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£795

18 Grange Road

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market three bedroom property situated conveniently in Easington. The property comprises: kitchen; living room; three double bedrooms; downstairs bathroom with bath and shower; WC and good size rear garden. There is also off road parking available. EPC Rating D.

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2 Kings Road

Martin & Co are pleased to present this two bedroom cottage situated in the village of Bloxham. The property benefits from one double bedroom and a second smaller bedroom / office. The bathroom contains a WC and a shower. Good size kitchen and living room. Washing machine and fridge available. EPC rating C

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flat 3 Enhance Court

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£725

7 Cherwell Wharf

Martin and Co Banbury are pleased to present, this 3 storey town house, situated next to the canal and close to town centre. The property comprises; two reception rooms, three double bedrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen and decked area to the rear of the property. Allocated parking. EPC Rating C

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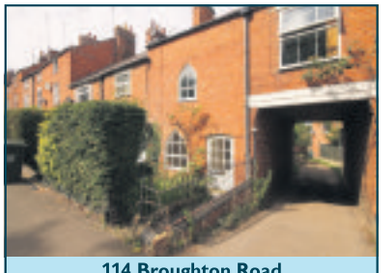

114 Broughton Road

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market, two bedroom refurbished end of terrace property with enclosed rear garden. Located with close proximity to the town centre, and walking distance to the train station. The property comprises: kitchen; living room; dining room; two bedrooms and bathroom. There is also on road parking.

£875

25 Sage Close

Martin & Co are pleased to present a large three bedroom furnished property. The property comprises: spacious entrance hall with storage cupboard; dining room; kitchen with separate breakfast area.Good sized first floor lounge; separate utility room. The master bedroom benefits from fitted wardrobes and an ensuite shower room.

£1050

46 Centre Street

Martin & Co are pleased to present a spacious four bedroom mid terraced property situated in Grimsbury within walking distance to the town centre and train station. The property comprises two reception rooms; kitchen; upstairs there are four bedrooms on 2 split levels. The master bedroom benefits from an ensuite bathroom. EPC Rating: D.

£995

31 Lord Feilding Close

Two bedroom staggered terraced property located north of Banbury in Hanwell Fields. The property comprises of; living room, kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom. The property also has gas central heating, double glazing throughout, spacious enclosed rear garden, ground floor W/C and a car port. EPC Rating C

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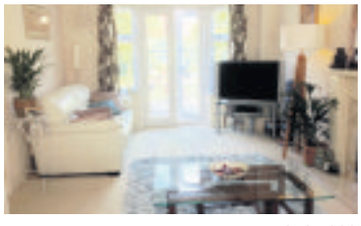

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New HR-V has space and versatility of an MPV

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Motors - first for new cars

New Car Road Test

The definitive view
by Andy Enright

Back on track once again

THE second generation Honda HR-V aims to stake a strong claim for the Japanese brand in the growing compact crossover market. This time round, it's more spacious and better equipped to take on segment leaders like Nissan's Juke and Renault's Captur. Buyers choose from either a 1.5 petrol unit or a 1.6 diesel, both sending drive to the front wheels. It looks good and deserves to do very well.

Background

Okay, stop us if you've heard this one before. A car with about as much interior space as you'd get in a Ford Fiesta, with raised ride height and funky styling. Solidly built from a respected Japanese manufacturer and offered with the option of front or all-wheel drive. It's the massive-selling Nissan Juke, right? No. It's the Honda HR-V. This car, originally advertised as the 'joy machine', appeared on our radars way back in 1999, before the market was really comfortable with the idea of a supermini-sized crossover.

Driving Experience

Honda has ditched any pretence that this HR-V is a go-anywhere vehicle, offering it solely in front-wheel drive guise. There's a choice of either petrol or diesel power, the former being a 130PS 1.5 litre i-VTEC petrol, with the black pump-fuelled variant getting a 120PS 1.6 i-DTEC unit. Each drives through a six-speed manual transmission, although the petrol powerplant can be optioned with a CVT automatic, with a paddle-shift on some trims. As for performance, the 1.5-litre petrol model makes 62mph from rest in 10.3s (or 10.9s in CVT auto form). Go for the 1.6 i-DTEC diesel and the 62mph sprint occupies 10.1s.

Design and Build

Honda reckons the MK2 model HR-V combines the 'personality of a coupe with the solid stance of an SUV' and they're not too far wrong. Think of it as a shrunken BMW X6 in appeal and you're not too far off the mark. The design is neat and interesting, with hidden rear door handles, deeply sculpted lower body panels and a CR-V-style front grille, headlamps and pointed taper at the rear side window line. The cabin features decent quality materials, with a soft-touch dash top accented with brushed chrome and piano black inlays.

Unlike its predecessor, this HR-V's quite spacious inside. A lower-profile fuel tank mounted under the front seats frees up the under-floor space beneath the rear seats, enabling the platform to accommodate Honda's 'Magic Seat' system.

Market and Model

Pricing-wise, this HR-V is pitched at the higher end of the small Crossover sector - so against cars like the Mazda CX-3 and the Jeep Renegade rather than at models like the Nissan Juke and the Renault Captur. Prices start at around £18,000 for the entry-level 'S'-spec variant, rising to around £25,000 for the flagship 'EX' diesel model. There's an £1,800 premium to pay if you choose the 1.6 i-DTEC diesel rather than the 1.5 i-VTEC petrol unit.

Buyers opting for the base-grade 'S' variant are well catered for, with convenience features such as climate control, cruise control and dusk-sensing automatic headlamps fitted as standard. The mid-grade 'SE' level adds rain sensing wipers, front and rear parking sensors and a six-speaker audio upgrade. A 'Smart Touch' interior includes touch panel controls for the upgraded dual-zone climate control. Customers choosing the top-grade 'EX' model get a full leather interior, smart entry and start, plus a rear-view camera. There's also a unique-in-class, tilt-and-slide opening panoramic glass sunroof and 17-inch alloy wheels. Customers opting for the 'SE' or 'EX' models will also benefit from the Honda Connect in-car infotainment system as standard. This Android-based system features an app-based 'pinch, swipe and tap' interface accessed on a seven-inch touchscreen in the centre of the dash.

Cost of Ownership

Petrol buyers selecting the 130PS 1.5 litre i-VTEC engine can expect combined fuel economy of 54.2mpg and CO2 emissions from 120g/km when they opt for the CVT automatic transmission. When married with the standard six-speed manual, the petrol-powered HR-V delivers fuel economy of 50mpg and CO2 emissions at a highly competitive 130g/km. As for the 1.6-litre i-DTEC diesel variant, well on 16-inch wheels, the combined cycle figure is 71mpg, with CO2 returns of 104mpg. Opt for larger 17-inch wheels and those figures fall to 69mpg and 108g/km.

Summary

The Honda HR-V looks an interesting addition to a line-up that's been thin on the right sort of niche models. Contrary to what some think, 'niche' needn't mean that the car sells in minuscule numbers. The Nissan Juke was developed as a 'niche model' but it did what most manufacturers hope for and became mainstream. Much of the hard work in this sector has been done by cars like the Juke - and Honda's looking to capitalise with the HR-V.

Its styling is neat and despite the sloping roofline, practicality looks well up to par. It's certainly a good deal more affordable and edgier than a CR-V. Of course, Honda has been here before with the HR-V but has learned lessons from that first generation model. This time round, the brand has appreciated the need for real substance behind the style.

With this in place, the HR-V will continue to appeal even if something fresher and more fashionable comes along. Job done.

Facts at a glance

CAR: Honda HR-V range
PRICES: £18,495-£26,055
INSURANCE GROUPS: 18E-20E
CO2 EMISSIONS: [1.6 diesel] 104g/km
PERFORMANCE: [1.6 diesel] 0-62 10.2s / top speed 119mph
FUEL CONSUMPTION: [1.6 diesel] (combined) 70.6mpg
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Used Car Road Test

by Jonathan Crouch

C1 and want to buy one?

THE C1 has undoubtedly been a success story for Citroën in the UK. With 80,000 sales between its initial launch in 2005 and the refreshed model we look at here, which arrived in 2012, this popular city car did all that could reasonably be asked of it. Ultimately, it was overtaken by newer and smarter rivals but as a used buy, it makes a great deal of sense. Here's what to look for when tracking down a used example.

History

Citroën is a company with a distinguished track record in small cars and the C1 joined the ranks of the most successful. It pioneered a new citycar market niche for Citroën, as their previous tot, the Saxo, campaigned in the next supermini class up. Originally launched in 2007, the C1 was sister car to the Peugeot 107 and the Toyota Aygo, all three cars built at the Kolin factory in the Czech Republic. The C1 was facelifted in 2009 and then again in 2012 and it's these post-2012 cars we look at here.

The big change with the April 2012 car was that the diesel engine option was deleted. Citroën pushed the new Efficient Tronic Gearbox (ETG) quite hard in their promotions, despite it being one of the worst transmissions foisted on a citycar since Smart's awful lash-up in the City Coupe. Needless to say, by far the majority of sales went to manual cars.

In August 2012, Citroën launched the rather gimmicky Connexion special edition which was claimed to be crowdsourced from Facebook fans ideas. Despite the rather naff concept, the car itself wasn't at all bad. Based on the C1 VTR trim, the C1 Connexion got 14"alloy wheels, dark tinted rear windows, Caldera Black metallic paint and Scarlet Red exterior and interior detailing, adding £500 to the asking price in the process. The C1's trim levels were revised at the end of 2013. Out went VT, VTR and VTR+ and in came VT, Edition and Platinum. A new Citroën C1 was unveiled at the 2014 Geneva Show. Not before time, some would argue.

What To Look For

The C1 is a pretty tough little thing given the amount of abuse it has to soak up. Not a lot ever goes wrong with the 1.0-litre engine and the electrical systems are also reliable. What aren't quite so good are the parts where cost has clearly been taken out of the car. The carpets can wear quickly, plus the parcel shelf is flimsy and owners report it sagging. Check for kerbed alloy wheels and the usual inner city trolley rash. The ETG gearbox can occasionally be temperamental, so check that all gears engage cleanly. Don't worry if it jolts and lurches. They all do that.
C1 consumables are affordably priced, with an oil filter retailing at around £8, a starter motor retailing at around £90 and front brake pads costing a very reasonable £30 a pair. The best part is that if you don't like the price of the Citroen bits, you can usually track down a bargain with the interchangeable Toyota or Peugeot items.

On The Road

You're not going to get a whole lot of choice when it comes to the engine in these later first generation C1 models. There's but one powerplant, a 998cc petrol unit with a trio of tiny cylinders that thrum away tunefully. Drive it as if you'd stolen it and you'll see 60mph come and go in 14 seconds, but most customers will be a little more circumspect with the throttle and will instead enjoy the C1's crisp drive off the line, ability to squeeze through tight gaps and its handy 3.44m turning circle.

Of course, there are many who choose a citycar exactly because most of their driving is in nose to tail traffic, and a good proportion of these people see a manual gearchange as a fitment that makes a tedious activity only more onerous. Citroën has an answer here in the form of the ETG transmission complete with steering-mounted paddle controls. It takes quite some getting used to in order to drive smoothly but it will certainly save your left leg a whole lot of effort. We'd rather stick with a manual and avoid the frustration.

Overall

Looking back at its production life, the first generation Citroën C1 citycar seemed to have more refreshes, relaunches and re-releases than virtually any other model this side of a Bugatti Veyron, but don't worry too much about the details. At its heart, the C1 remains a fundamentally good design, with a willing 1.0-litre petrol engine, a space-efficient cabin, a respectable amount of safety kit and ultra-low running costs.

If anything, it's even more appealing as a used purchase, especially if you can pick up a clean low mileage example of a later post-2012 car like those we've been looking at here, ideally one that's just been used to nip to the local shops. For younger drivers looking for a first runabout that's affordable but not a total snooze and rightly considering this C1 as one of their main options, it's really hard to go too far wrong.

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by Jonathan Crouch

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VOLKSWAGEN'S much improved second generation Tiguan targets compact SUV and Crossover customers alike with a high quality, well priced package that's now smarter and more efficient. All the car you'll ever really need? Many see it as just that.

Background

If you're planning to spend somewhere in the £23,000-£28,000 bracket on a compact SUV or SUV-like Crossover, you'll certainly not be short of choice. But choice can sometimes be a compromising thing - and so it is here. So for the premium badge you'd like on a car of this kind, you have to compromise on equipment. For the practicality you'll need, you have to compromise on trim and build quality. And for the all-wheel drive ability you'll maybe sometimes want, you've to compromise on tarmac driving pleasure.

Driving Experience

The initial engine range is primarily based around a 150PS version of Volkswagen's usual 2.0-litre TDI diesel, with the option of 7-speed DSG automatic transmission and 4MOTION 4WD. Rest to 62mph occupies 9.3s. There's also a 1.8-litre 180PS TSI petrol variant which comes as standard with both 4MOTION 4WD and DSG transmission: this derivative makes 62mph in 7.7s.

Later on, UK buyers will also get the option of 125 and 150PS 1.4-litre petrol units. In addition, there'll be a wider range of diesels, including a base 115PS unit and a top 240PS biturbo powerplant. There'll also be a GTE Plug-in hybrid petrol electric version using most of the same technology you'll find in the existing Golf GTE and 218PS of total system power.

Design and Build

So, what's new? Well, the conventional Tiguan has put on 60mm in length and 30mm in width and sits 22mm lower than before in 4x4 form. Wolfsburg has developed a lengthened seven-seat version this time around which our market may get. The UK will definitely receive a third coupe version. For the time being though, it's the conventional five-door model we need to concentrate on, a car which sits on the advanced, stiff, light MQB platform that underpins the current Golf and Passat models. It's certainly a more confident-looking car - and a more spacious one too.

The cabin's classier too, fit and finish being of a noticeably higher standard than before. Much of the switchgear and the infotainment monitor will be familiar to anyone who has tried a MK7 Golf. Borrowed from the Passat is the optional Active Info Display high-definition instrument panel. You can also specify a Head-up display that uses a small glass panel, deployed from behind the instrument binnacle at the press of button. Luggage space has grown by 145-litres to 615-litres with the standard 60/40 split folding rear seats in place, or 1655-litres with the seats lowered.

Market and Model

Expect pricing to sit in the £22,500 to £35,000 bracket, with the initial engine choice centred mainly around the 150PS version of Volkswagen's familiar 2.0-litre TDI diesel engine. If you want 4MOTION 4WD with this variant, then an extra £1,600 will secure it and there's also the £1,600 option of DSG automatic transmission. As an alternative, Volkswagen is also offering a 1.8-litre TSI petrol variant with 180PS. This derivative comes only with DSG auto transmission and 4MOTION 4WD and is only offered with the priciest trim levels. Talking of trim levels, there's a choice of 'S', 'SE', 'SE Nav', 'SEL' and 'R-Line' options. All models come with alloy wheels, 'Climatic' semi-automatic air conditioning, a trip computer, all-round electric windows, an alarm, power heated door mirrors and a 'Composition Media' infotainment system.

Cost of Ownership

Expect the 2.0 TDI 150PS 2WD variant many will want to deliver 58.9mpg on the combined cycle and 125g/km of CO2. Go for the 1.8-litre TSI 180PS DSG 4MOTION petrol option and the figures are 38.2mpg and 170g/km.

Later on, the economy champion will be the GTE Plug-in hybrid petrol/electric version you can ask your dealer about. Overall, though the upfront sticker price isn't cheap, whichever variant you choose, you'll probably be better off choosing this Volkswagen than a cheaper South Korean alternative when you factor in depreciation and whole life costs.

And warranties? Well the standard package is three years and 60,000 miles. If you plan to see a bit more of the world in your Tiguan, there's a five year / 90,000 mile package. Whatever your decision, your car will come with three years of pan-European Roadside Assistance that has no mileage restriction. The paintwork warranty lasts for three years and, as you'd expect, this car is protected by a 12-year anti-corrosion package.

Summary

It's not hard to see why the Tiguan is such a popular choice in its sector here in the UK. You get pretty much all the quality of premium-badged compact SUV for the price of a budget brand contender. You get pretty much all the tarmac handling ability of a Qashqai-like Crossover with virtually all the off road ability of something more capable. And it all comes with the enduring appeal of that Volkswagen badge and the enduring residual values that'll go along with it.

What it does offer in this improved form are running costs from an ever-more efficient range of engines that make the transition to a car like this from an ordinary family hatch less painful than ever. A sensible choice then, but one you'll enjoy making.

Facts at a glance

CAR: Volkswagen Tiguan
PRICES: £23,000-£28,000 [est] - on the road
INSURANCE GROUP: TBC
CO2 EMISSIONS: TBC
PERFORMANCE: [2.0TSI 180 4MOTION] 0-60mph 7.7s / max speed 129mph
FUEL CONSUMPTION: [2.0TSI 180 4MOTION] (combined) 38.7mpg
STANDARD SAFETY FEATURES: ABS, ESP, six airbags
WILL IT FIT IN YOUR GARAGE?: length/width/heightmm TBC

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MUHAMMAD ALI EXHIBITION
at The O2 London on Sunday 21st August 2016
Adult £42.50 Child £32.50
The life of Muhammad Ali, the World's greatest heavyweight boxer, is being celebrated this year with a brand new exhibition put together with the help of the Ali family.

DISNEY ON ICE Presents FROZEN
The heartwarming Academy Award®-winning tale you love is now a full length production live on ice
Barclaycard Arena (NIA), Birmingham
Sunday 30th October '16
Only £52.50
Early Bird Deposit of £10 per person.

New Theatre, Oxford
Ghost
Taking its inspiration from the classic movie, this innovative reimagining will feature an expanded book, new music and original staging.
Monday 31st October 2016
Only £57.50

Dominion Theatre London
Bodyguard The Musical
Former Secret Service agent turned bodyguard, Frank Farmer, is hired to protect superstar Rachel Marron from an unknown stalker. Each expects to be in charge – what they don't expect is to fall in love.
Thursday 4th August '16 - £59.50

Shaftesbury Theatre, London
Motown The Musical
Discover the story behind the sound that moved the world. With just $800 borrowed from his family, Berry Gordy founded Motown records and launched the careers of many
Thursday 4th August '16
Only £69.50

Lyceum Theatre, London
Disney's Lion King
At its heart is the powerful and moving story of Simba – the epic adventure of his journey from wide-eyed cub to his destined role as King of the Pridelands.
Only 4 Tickets Left
Thursday 30th June 2016
£69.50
Only 4 Tickets Left

Derngate Theatre, Northampton
Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
Starring Michelle Collins & Phil Jupitus
One of the world's favourite musicals, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang will have Northampton audiences of all ages flying high with its mixture of madness, intrigue and exuberance.
Wednesday 21st September 2016
£59.50

Dirty Dancing
Full of passion and romance, heartpounding music and sensationally sexy dancing, the show features the hit songs Hungry Eyes, Hey! Baby, Do You Love Me? and the heart-stopping (I've Had) The Time Of My Life.
Monday 31st October '16 £49.50

The Buddy Holly Story
Forget feel-good, Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story is feel-great. Experience the drama, passion and excitement as a cast of phenomenally talented actors and musicians tell Buddy Holly's story, from his meteoric rise to fame, to his final legendary performance at The Surf Ballroom.
Monday 7th November 16
£42.50

DAY TOURS

SEASIDE & STEAM
We board the charming West Somerset Railway for a 20 mile 'Steam' journey - afternoon free in the Seaside Resort of Minehead
Saturday 25th June Adult £42.50 Child £34.50 (CT)

WEYMOUTH
Award winning beach with picturesque harbour and numerous attractions
Sunday 26th June Adult £30.00 Child/OAP £28.00 (C)

ROYAL WINDSOR
BEAUTIFUL, UNIQUE AND HISTORIC DESTINATION
Saturday 16th July Adult £24.00 Child/OAP £22.00 (C)

TRENTHAM GARDENS & MONKEY FOREST, STAFFORDSHIRE
Explore the splendour of the Italian garden, shopping village & wonderful Monkey Forest
Sunday 3rd July Adult £42.50 Child/OAP £36.50 (CE)

TATTON PARK FLOWER SHOW, CHESHIRE
One of the highlights of the gardening year - fabulous show gardens and breathtaking displays
NEW
Sunday 24th July Only £49.50 (DE)

OXFORD TO ABINGDON
Thames cruise - relax and enjoy the scenery - includes free time in Oxford
Tuesday 2nd August Adult £30.00 Child/OAP £28.00 (CC)

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
(INCLUSIVE OF AUDIO TOUR)
& 2 course Carvery Lunch at the 4* Strand Palace Hotel
Wednesday 24th August Only £56.50 (CEL)

Inclusive Coach Holiday Tours 2016

ONLY £429 6 NIGHTS HB
SCARBOROUGH & NORTH YORKSHIRE COAST
Hotel: The Cumberland Hotel, Scarborough
Scarborough - Britain's first seaside resort situated on Yorkshire's coast between two large bays. Hotel well situated on South Cliff, a few minutes walk from beach and town centre. Hotel recently extensively refurbished. Excursions: Whitby - Bridlington & Filey - York - North Yorkshire Moors.
Sunday 7th August 2016

ONLY £199 NEW 2 NIGHTS HB
HISTORIC CITY OF CHESTER
Hotel: Queen Hotel, Chester The delights of Chester await on this short break with time to explore this enchanting historic city. Walk around the Roman Walls, from the Heights, there are fine views down to the medieval streets, not forgetting the magnificent cathedral or visit the famous Chester Zoo.
Thursday 18th August 2016

ONLY £189 2 NIGHTS HB
LIVERPOOL - JEWEL OF THE MERSEY
Hotel: Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool The Britannia Adelphi Hotel is rich in history and located in the heart of Liverpool City Centre. Liverpool is a city steeped in history and rich in culture. Explore Albert Dock, the footsteps of the Beatles or take a cruise on the famous Mersey Ferry!
A memorable city break!
Saturday 23rd July 2016

ONLY £349 4 NIGHTS HB
REDWORTH HALL COUNTY DURHAM
Hotel: 4 ★ Redworth Hall Hotel Relax in the stunning surroundings of the four star Redworth Hall Hotel, with an opportunity to experience the beauty of County Durham and Northumberland.
Excursions: Durham & Angel of the North - Hexham & Weardale
Monday 25th July 2016
PREMIER

ONLY £429 6 NIGHTS HB
FORT WILLIAM - SCOTLAND SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS
Hotels: Dalhousie Hotel, Dunoon (1 at HB 31.7.16)
Croft Anna Hotel, Fort William (5 nts HB 1.8.16)
Fort William, situated beneath Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain is a splendid location to explore the magnificent Western Highlands. Croft Anna Hotel is situated on the shores of Loch Linnhe with spectacular views across the Loch.
Excursions: Isle of Skye - Inverness - Loch Ness - Oban
Sunday 31st July 2016 NO LIFT - But many ground floor rooms

ONLY £429 6 NIGHTS HB
SCARBOROUGH & NORTH YORKSHIRE COAST
Hotel: The Cumberland Hotel, Scarborough
Scarborough - Britain's first seaside resort situated on Yorkshire's coast between two large bays. Hotel well situated on South Cliff, a few minutes walk from beach and town centre. Hotel recently extensively refurbished.
Excursions: Whitby - Bridlington & Filey - York - North Yorkshire Moors.
Sunday 7th August 2016

ONLY £399 NEW 4 NIGHTS HB
WARNERS ALVASTON HALL HOTEL - CHESHIRE
Alvaston Hall has recently undergone a £2 million refurbishment. Nestled in the rolling countryside of Cheshire, a beautiful Victorian country house. Daytime activities - leisure facilities - fantastic nightly entertainment. Excursions: Chester - Liverpool - Nantwich
ADULTS ONLY
PREMIER
Monday 8th August 2016

ONLY £399 4 NIGHTS HB
WARNERS BEMBRIDGE COAST HOTEL, ISLE OF WIGHT
Few hotels on the Isle of Wight enjoy a finer shoreline setting or more spectacular views across the Solent! Stylish rooms, leisure facilities and excellent entertainment provided nightly - the perfect escape from everyday life! Excursions: Island Tour - Isle of Wight Steam Railway.
PREMIER
ADULTS ONLY
Monday 1st August 2016

ONLY £199 NEW 2 NIGHTS HB
HISTORIC CITY OF CHESTER
Hotel: Queen Hotel, Chester The delights of Chester await on this short break with time to explore this enchanting historic city. Walk around the Roman Walls, from the Heights, there are fine views down to the medieval streets, not forgetting the magnificent cathedral or visit the famous Chester Zoo.
Thursday 18th August 2016

ONLY £399 4 NIGHTS HB
WARNERS CRICKET ST THOMAS - SOMERSET
Regency elegance, vast landscaped gardens and history - surrounded by rolling countryside and close to the Jurassic Coast, this regency gem has something for everyone! Daytime activities, nightly entertainment, sumptuous meals.
Excursions: Sidmouth & Wells
ADULTS ONLY
PREMIER
Monday 29th August 2016

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